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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A composition for preserving a ~~grain~~ an animal feed product having a water activity greater than 0.70 and initial levels of microbes that cause spoilage of the ~~grain~~ animal feed product, the composition having active components comprising:

- (a) between about 90 and 99.9 weight percent of one or more organic acids selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of propionic, acetic, sorbic, citric, ascorbic, benzoic, and phosphoric acids;
- (b) between about ~~0~~ 0.03 and about 10 weight percent of one or more synthetic or natural antioxidants selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of TBHQ, citric acid, BHT, BHA, tocopherols, and extracts of rosemary; and
- (c) between about 0 and about 10 weight percent of one or more synthetic or natural surfactants selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of propylene glycol, lecithin, lysolecithin, and mono- and diglycerides; and
- (d) ~~wherein the composition is applied to the grain product at between about 0.05 and about 2.5 weight percent to maintain or reduce the level of microbes in the grain product at or below the initial levels for a period of not less than 7 days.~~

2. (Currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 1, wherein the organic acid component ~~comprises one or more acids of~~ is selected from the group consisting of propionic, acetic, benzoic, and sorbic acid.

3. (Canceled) A composition as defined in claim 1, wherein animals fed the treated grain product and the untreated grain product consume an equal amount of the treated grain product as the untreated grain product on a dry matter basis.

4. (Currently amended) A method for preserving a ~~grain~~ an animal feed product having a water activity greater than 0.70 and initial levels of microbes that cause spoilage of the ~~grain~~ animal feed product, comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting between about 90 and 99.9 weight percent of active components one or more organic acids from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of propionic, acetic, sorbic, citric, ascorbic, benzoic, and phosphoric acids;
- (b) selecting between about ~~0~~ 0.03 and about 10 weight percent of active components one or more synthetic or natural antioxidants from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of TBHQ, citric acid, BHT, BHA, tocopherols, and extracts of rosemary;
- (c) selecting between about 0 and about 10 weight percent of active components one or more synthetic or natural surfactants from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of propylene glycol, lecithin, lysolecithin, and mono- and diglycerides; and
- (d) applying the ~~surfactant and/or antioxidant component or components and the organic acid component~~ to a quantity of a ~~grain~~ the animal feed product wherein the components are applied to the ~~grain~~ animal feed product at between about 0.05 and about 2.5 weight percent to maintain or reduce the level of microbes in the ~~grain~~ animal feed product at or below the initial levels for a period of not less than 7 days.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the ~~grain~~ animal feed product is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of wet corn gluten feed, wet distiller's grains, ~~wet~~ wet distiller's grain solubles, ~~distillers~~ distiller's dried grains, fuzzy cottonseed, wet brewer's grains, and dry ~~brewers~~ brewer's grains, cottonseed meal, corn hominy feed, almond hulls, wet and dry sugar beet pulp, dry sugar beet pulp, canola meal, citrus pulp, rice bran, safflower meal, soybean hulls, food processing waste, and wheat mill run.

6. (New) An animal feed product having a moisture content greater than 30 percent and initial levels of microbes that cause spoilage of the animal feed product and a preservative, comprising:

- (a) between 1.5 and 30 pounds of one or more organic acids selected from the group comprising propionic, acetic, sorbic, citric, ascorbic, benzoic, and phosphoric acids per ton of animal feed product;
 - (b) between 0.0006 and 0.1 pounds of one or more synthetic or natural antioxidants selected from the group comprising TBHQ, citric acid, BHT, BHA, tocopherols, and extracts of rosemary per ton of animal feed product; and
 - (c) between 0 and 3 pounds of one or more synthetic or natural surfactants selected from the group comprising propylene glycol, lecithin, lysolecithin, and mono- and diglycerides per ton of animal feed product.
7. (New) The animal feed product and preservative of claim 6, wherein the animal feed product is a grain product.
8. (New) The animal feed product and preservative of claim 6, wherein the animal feed product is an animal feed ingredient used in an animal feed ration.
9. (New) The animal feed product and preservative of claim 6, wherein the animal feed product is selected from the group consisting of wet corn gluten feed, wet distiller's grains, wet distiller's grain solubles, distiller's dried grains, fuzzy cottonseed, wet brewer's grains, dry brewer's grains, cottonseed meal, corn hominy feed, almond hulls, wet sugar beet pulp, dry sugar beet pulp, canola meal, citrus pulp, rice bran, safflower meal, soybean hulls, food processing waste, and wheat mill run.
10. (New) A method for preserving an animal feed product, comprising the steps of:
- (a) creating a composition comprising between 1.5 and 30 pounds of one or more organic acids selected from the group consisting of propionic, acetic, sorbic, citric, ascorbic, benzoic, and phosphoric acids per ton of animal feed product, between 0.0006 and 0.1 pounds of one or more synthetic or natural antioxidants selected from the group consisting of TBHQ, citric acid, BHT, BHA, tocopherols, and extracts of rosemary per ton of animal feed product,

and between 0 and 3 pounds of one or more synthetic or natural surfactants selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, lecithin, lysolecithin, and mono- and diglycerides per ton of animal feed product; and

- (b) applying the composition to an animal feed product having a moisture content greater than 30 percent and initial levels of microbes that cause spoilage of the animal feed product to maintain or reduce the level of microbes in the animal feed product at or below the initial levels for a period of not less than 7 days.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the animal feed product is selected from the group consisting of wet corn gluten feed, wet distiller's grains, wet distiller's grain solubles, distiller's dried grains, fuzzy cottonseed, wet brewer's grains, dry brewer's grains, cottonseed meal, corn hominy feed, almond hulls, wet sugar beet pulp, dry sugar beet pulp, canola meal, citrus pulp, rice bran, safflower meal, soybean hulls, food processing waste, and wheat mill run.

12. (New) A method of feeding animals an animal feed product, comprising the steps of:

- (a) treating the animal feed product with the composition of claim 1 at a rate of between 1 and 30 pounds per ton of animal feed product; and
- (b) feeding the treated animal feed product to animals wherein animals fed the treated animal feed product consume an equal amount of the animal feed product on a dry matter basis as animals fed the untreated animal feed product.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the animals are ruminants and the animal feed product is wet corn gluten feed.

14. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the animal feed product is a grain product.

15. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the animal feed product is an animal feed ingredient of an animal feed ration.